

# NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB BULLETIN



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(This months picture cover is of an old member, Chris Davy, who used to fish all the time with Terry Jefferson - I forgot to say who last month's cover picture was of but there are no prizes for guessing)

EDITORIAL

As you should have seen by now, this edition comes to you thanks mainly to two of our newest members, Kevin Stephenson and John Sidley. If the rest of you could match their efforts and concern, then we would have a good Bulletin every month.

Now it's the close season you should have no excuse, dig out your pens and paper or typewriter and get cracking. If you cannot do an article, write a letter commenting on articles others have written or write a note about something of interest eel-wise.

The numbers of letters or extracts from letters in this issue demonstrates that interest is there.

It may be of interest to you to hear of a big eel that I heard about only last week. I was talking about eels to a member of the staff at my school when my lab technician said that his cousin had caught a very big eel some years past. I was interested and asked for more details.

Briefly, the eel was caught 20 years or so ago, about the middle 1960's in a water about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from where I now live. Its weight was said to be 8lb 15oz but was not claimed as a record. The guy who caught it was not a specialist angler but a very casual one and thought nothing much about it. He took the eel home and hung it up in his shed to dry out. A couple of days later he was in his local tackle shop and mentioned the eel and its size. He was a little surprised at the reaction, especially when the guy shut his shop and hurried round to the lad's house. The eel was very dry by then but on weighing again, still went over 7lbs. It was recovered and eventually stuffed. The guy still has it. If I can get more details I'll let you know. It would put the eel as the second biggest caught on rod and line, depending on whether you believe in the eel of 10lb+ caught by a London angler last year. There were no photographs of this eel however. Also eels of 8lb+ and 9lb+ were supposedly caught from the Southern Angling Centre at Chichester last year. Again no photos and not very good witnesses. Food for thought - were eels of 8lb+, 9lb+ and 10lb+ actually caught last season? I would like to believe so but these days, it must be very difficult to fish public waters like these, catch huge fish and not be able to obtain positive proof. Maybe I'm too sceptical.

I hope you all have much success this year and keep your ears and eyes open. If you do hear of any captures of eels over 4lb, do let me have as much detail as possible. If we are to continue to be a respected Club, despite what Kevin Richmond may say, we do have to keep our noses to the ground or water.

Brian Crawford

## THE SEASON OF 1984 by KEVIN STEPHENSON

The reason for my joining the National Anguilla Club at the Spring Meeting was to gain plenty of information on anguilla so that I could fish for them with some confidence and hopefully a little success. My plan was to fish for both eels and catfish during the summer as something of a change to the usual summer species.

Firstly I will tell you of my season and then of the conclusions at the end. The first session of the season was on the G.U., south of Leicester. For some reason there is a very high eel population in the G.U. between Northampton and Leicester. Travelling North and fishing between Leicester and the rivers Soar and Trent on the G.U., I have never caught an eel - - - another one of eel angling's mysteries.....

Anyway, back to the first session on the night of April 7-8th. The water was its usual dark clay colour because of the slight flow and boats. The recorded water temperature was 44°F (I prefer to take the temperatures at the end of the session for obvious reasons). That night I had 4 runs and took only one eel at 2:4. There is a large number of small eels here of ½ - ¾lb. The bites they give are all the same so I was not too bothered at missing these. All the bigger eels give very confident takes. One point of note is that in the past, when fishing the same swim later in the season, all the larger fish have been caught on the surface. With the weather being colder, I took the eel on the bottom.

I fished the same stretch on the next weekend, Friday 13th, to be exact and almost a full moon. Yes! You guesses it - I should have gone down the pub instead. It was a very bright night. Bolts both on the surface and bottom produced no runs although there was plenty of fry activity most of the night. The following weekend was almost as bad. I tried an experimental session at Hollowell Reservoir. There was a good deal of activity there also for most of the night from small jacks in the margins but again, no eels.

The week after this I had a week off work for the Easter Holiday. I fished the Sunday night through to Monday morning at our local pits. I had one run all night which turned out to be a tench of 3:8. I then spent the day getting my kit together for a few days fishing at Bala. My thanks to Ernie, Brian, P.A.C. and B.E.A.C. members living in North Wales for information provided on Bala. I fished with a P.A.C. member from Derby, called Carl. He had never caught an eel while seriously fishing for them.

We arrived on the 24/4/84 around mid afternoon. Unfortunately the weather was to be our down fall. It was the hottest Easter for many years and the nights were very cold. We only stayed for three nights and caught a few eels. These coming in early evening through to about two hours into dark. All the fish being the same size around 12 - 14oz. Our plan was to fish for pike in the day and eels at night. The days were so hot that after 9.30am, it was much too hot. We fared little better with the pike taking mainly small jacks, with the largest caught at about 6lb. I was very impressed with the local scenery, etc., and hope to return again in 1985.

My eighth session of the year was on 4/5/84 back on the G.U.

I had an eel of 1:4 on ledgered worm and one of 2:6 sub-surface frozen deadbait - the best eel of the season so far. These, along with a dropped run, was all the action I had all night.

I waited until the 1st of June for my next trip, again on the canal. This produced two runs and two eels, one the best of the season at 2:10 on a sub-surface worm, the other of about 1lb on a ledgered worm. My little experiment of chopped fish in a swim feeder seemed to have paid off.

My tenth trip of the season was fishing the same water and the same method but resulted in a blank... Back to the drawing board with the swimfeeder rig.

My 11th session was delayed for over a month because of the start of my tench, cats and chub fishing. This session was on one of our local pits. The average size of eels must be around 4lb, although there have been only three caught in recent years. The session was a blank apart from two medium sizes tench.

Another experimental trip and my 12th saw me on the banks of a very large local reservoir. In fact it is almost the source of the Warwickshire Avon. I had problems most of the night with drifting blanket algae and bottom weed. I was fed up by 1.30am so headed for home.

The 28 - 29th of July saw me fishing Calf Heath Reservoir on the A5. I knew before hand that it was a hard water. The results of that Saturday evening and Sunday morning did little to change my mind. This is the reservoir that produced the 8:10 exactly a year previously.

Another session at Calf Heath was divided by a trip to the canal, although it was another hard night with very heavy wind and rain just after tackling up. I could only stick it out until 1.00am before packing up.

The Calf Heath trip produced yet another blank but a few interesting points came to light. There are huge amounts of natural food contained in the water. I arrived early in the afternoon and spent lots of time looking around the water. With the clarity and depth close in, I was easily able to watch millions of daphnia (water fleas) from the dam wall and tens of thousands of 2 - 5" fry occasionally feeding on these. Plenty of food for all. I think the major problem anglers here face is not that there are few fish present, but the amount of competition from natural food. I think the eel angler will stand a better chance early or later in the year.

My eel fishing unfortunately was not as good as I expected. My fishing in general was quite good this season - the first three months I had broken four personal bests of different species.

For next season, I will fish easier waters such as Boston Fen near Stamford and some of the other East Coast waters. The average size of the fish may be smaller but there should be plenty of action on most nights with the chance of picking up some of the bigger fish. In conclusion, I think I was trying to run before I could walk. I always had a nagging doubt in my mind that I may still be doing something wrong. My sub-surface bait fishing down the canal proved successful however. (K.S.)

ALTERNATIVE TACKLE TESTS by KEVIN STEPHENSON

This article could start the 'ball rolling' and see many more articles from other N.A.C. members along similar lines. The problem with the angling press is that very often, large tackle manufacturers are supplying the editing team with goods to review and to keep this tackle flow up, there appears to be an obligation to give glowing reports.

It is my intention to give reports on some of the tackle that is very good in use, durable and gives good value for money.

The first item to spring to mind is a North Western 42" landing net and handle. This has been in constant use for the last 18 months. The net is light enough (with the hollow glass handle) to net all fish single handed, even from some of the highest banks. The handle incidently, is 6' long. The net itself is about the ideal depth so as not to catch on bankside snags but deep enough not to cause problems with "lively fish". The whole net can be assembled in about 10 seconds and the price is very reasonable around £30.00 complete.

The last three seasons has seen my "EVER LEVEL" seat with a constant battering and use. It has stood up very well from short after work chub sessions to a full days pike fishing. The price seems a little expensive, I think they are around £28.00 now. There are a couple of models around of similar design with a higher price tag. The ever level seat has a double canvas seat and back rest cover on a light weight steel frame. It has four double legs (the legs are similar in shape to a bedchair). Two very low legs that are fixed, and two fold up legs, the front leg being adjustable for height. This can cope with any and all bank slopes. It packs up fairly small and can be strapped to a rucksack.

Last close season I took a trip around our local camping supplier and came across a very small gas stove by the name of 'EPI GAS Backpacker.' It is a slightly different, and to my mind a much better one than Camping Gaz stoves. To explain briefly, the burner itself is removeable from a re-usable cylinder. The burner packs up with the pan support arms laying flat, the windshield comes away, and the burner is then laid in the windshield and the pan and handle that comes with the set is pushed over the windshield. There are many sizes of re-usable cylinder with the advantage that if you are going on a long trip you can take a new cylinder every time and not have to wait for the old one to run out before being able to fit a new one. In use it is quite versatile. The pan being big enough to boil one cup of water very quickly. The handle will clip onto any opened tin can, so soup, beans, etc. can be cooked in the tin. So no dirty saucepans to wash or carry home. The whole unit packs up to a very small 5" round by a couple of inches deep plus of course the size of the cylinder you use. Another good point is that there are a large number of outlets for these types of cylinder, mainly because they are also used for DIY blowlamps etc. so they can be found in all DIY shops as well as garages and even the local supermarket. Many of these are open long hours, Sundays, etc.

Other NAC members would find your tackle tests interesting and even at the other end of the scale, tackle you have had problems with or an item of tackle that is of poor quality or design.

THOUGHTS ON THE REPORTING SCHEME by JOHN SIDLEY

First of all, I would like to thank all the members of the N.A.C. who voted for me to become a member of a club I have for many years wished to join.

As you all may well know I am a founder member of the successful B.E.A.C. I am also a member of the new group being formed by Kevin Richmond, the E.S.G. During my time with the B.E.A.C., it has been the wish of Mick Bowles, Secretary, that the N.A.C. and B.E.A.C. should work with each other, I know that Mick has written to Brian, with I'm glad to say, great results; yet I know also, that Mick has written to other members of the N.A.C. myself too, and we are still awaiting replies. We can all gain if we only will put our thoughts and ideas together. I can also confirm to you that the E.S.G. would like all 3 clubs to band together, and I put forward that a copy of old Dave's article be sent to the B.E.A.C. and the E.S.G. We could all start off on the right foot by going to the eel trip at Bala Lake, during the month of May. This trip is being run by Nev. Evans and Andy Barlow for the B.E.A.C. I for one would love to see all clubs present at this fish in. I'll even jump in the lake if you all come along (not with a brick round my neck Dave!)

It was with great interest that I read the reporting papers by Terry, and I will try my best to fill them in. Yet, in past years I myself have kept details of eels taken but I must admit, not on such a grand scale. So far they have not helped me in anyway, in fact I have become more confused. Length and girth I have found, give us no real clue into the capture of larger eels in the water being fished. In fact, doing the above has caused arguments amongst friends. We have taken eels say weighing 3lb with a length of 30" and a girth of 7" and another eel with say an inch longer and a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " more girth, weighing less than 3lbs. This is when your friends start to think you are trying to pull a fast one. As yet, the moon, no moon, cloud cover, air temp, wind, no wind; has not helped me in anyway. Water temp. yes, and depth of water being fished, plus the bait being used. The rest of it is or has been useless to me. I have friends who do the above reporting paper. Some are past members of the N.A.C. Yet my eel record is way above theirs and we fish the same waters. I have been out in thunderstorms a few times and have only ever taken eels in any numbers once, the other times I've had a complete blank; Gerry and I once fished Westwood Park on boats, in the morning our tackle was covered in thick frost, our nets were full of eels upto 5lb 15oz. Another night in what's called perfect conditions, we have had a blank. To my mind, you will only catch eels when they are feeding, regardless of weather conditions. That may sound daft to some of you. "You will only catch when they are feeding", but think about it first before rolling off your chair. I once took six eels in one night from Earlswood, the best weighed 6lb 2oz. I took them all home to show off to the then members of the E.P.C. They were placed in my bath at home, pictures taken, then returned alive. One of our members commented while we were all looking at them in

the bath. "Ah John! You would not have taken that lot if they had not been feeding!" We all rolled on the floor in pain, but he was right, daft as it may seem, he was right. To me, the perfect conditions are when one catches eels, not when one blanks regardless of the weather. In my view, one has to devote 100%, even more to be successful in the capture of large eels. For many years I have devoted all my summer time fishing to the eel. Before I started pike fishing, winter stints were done, with I may add, little rewards. On rivers and drains yes, but on my still-waters it was a waste of time and very mind wrecking. To me, there are two types of eels in our waterways, large head and small head eels. There are also two types of eel anglers, the ones who I believe just play at it, and the other type who devotes his whole fishing to catching large eels. I do not knock these anglers who fish in their own way, all I ask is do not knock the angler who is being successful. When I go to my venue I look at the lake and on the bank I try to become the eel. Where would I like to be on the water? Where would I hide up? Where would I feed? Taking into account areas I have checked out, i.e. depth of water to time of year fishing, weedbeds, fallen trees, drop offs, fry shoals, areas where dead fish gather, etc. etc.

Another point I would like to bring up is the subject of sub surface feeding eels over deep water. To my mind, a method which brings large eels of say 5lb or more, for that is the weight bracket I try to fish for, plus the waters I try to fish do not hold a large head of eels and average over 4lb when they come along. Does anyone know this method produced the big girls in numbers? Friends who I know do fish the method, have as yet only taken average sized eels, all the big eels have come to larger baits. Are we wasting our time trying the above methods? If you see me that some big eels have been taken when the bait has been fished in a couple of feet of water, like the maddins, I'm not impressed at all. For me, that is not sub-surface fishing, for I have seen large eels feeding in the shallows. All they have to do is lift their neck off the bottom. Of the methods I know and tried, I think I will stick to the old ways with bottom fishing over areas of dead fish. All I hope is the eel lads who are pulling the red huggs on these big eel waters, prove me wrong. If not, just stop and think of all the hours which have gone to waste.

Once again I thank you all for voting me into the N.A.C. All I hope is I do not let you down. Hope to see you all at the Bala Trip. Up til then I wish you all good eeling.

EEL PRESERVATION by JOHN SIDLEY

I feel I must comment on Steve Hope's article 'Eel Netting and the future of our sport'. It pleased me very much to read this article, for I feel this is a subject where all eel anglers, be they N.A.C. members or B.E.A.C. members, must take an active part. Many years ago I started a 'Put Eels Back' campaign after I had killed an eel of 7lb 1oz. This eel was set up for me by the B'ham museum. When I was told the eel was ready, I went to get it with my father. On collection I was told that they had put my eel at 68 years old. It was then I swore I would never kill another eel for the table or for a trophy.

Since then my campaign has grown from strength to strength, and from it was born the B.E.A.C. In letters to the Severn-Trent I have had it confirmed to me that there is a decline in our main rivers of elvers, and the Severn-Trent are concerned over this matter, so concerned that they are now stocking inland lakes with sizeable eels. I even wrote to the Prime Minister who wrote back saying my comments had been recorded, and my findings had been passed onto the Food and Fisheries Department, along with a petition of over 1,000 names. Steps are now being taken by the S/T to solve this problem, for as I have pointed out the bad run of elvers each year can not be blamed on the state of our poor summers.

I have spent much time talking to the river side dwellers that used to do elver netting on the lower reaches of the Severn and Avon. They have again confirmed that ever since the elver stations opened up on the lower river, the eel fishing has got worse and worse. These findings, along with names, were sent to the S/T, plus fishing records of days and nights I had spent on the river fishing for eels with very small baits. Compared to 14 years ago, the total has dropped. I have also checked my findings out with the local match clubs, who have also noticed a big decline in the number of eels taken in a match. At one time a match could be won on small eels but not today. What must be taken into account is that the elver stations not only net the elvers, but the mature silver eels heading back to the Sargasso Sea to spawn, in fact robbing us of our future eel stocks. Many years ago, Germany and Holland had great runs of elvers up their rivers until over-netting and greed ruined their rivers. Must we wait for the same thing to happen here? I say no, we must have our pleas heard now. We need N.A.S.A. to put forward our cries of help and action must start now. The eel is the most abused fish that swims in our waterways, we have all seen big eels killed needlessly. If the same thing were to happen to a carp pike or tench, there would be an out-cry, but what the hell, its only an eel, there's bloody loads of them, they can be thrown up the bank, left out of water for days and they won't die, they're really tough fish. Bull-shit. An eel regardless of size should be treated with the same respect as any other fish. I hate tench and bream even carp, but if I hook any while eeling I return them with as much respect as I would any eel. Is it asking too much for other anglers to do the same. I put forward that the N.A.C. B.E.A.C. and the E.S.G. get round the table and put forward to the N.A.S.A. a code of conduct for the eel, and ask for their help.

Another big enemy of the eel is the eel angler, myself being one of the worst in seasons gone by. When we report our eels in the Angling press, we should not give out the name of the venue where our eels were taken, for the eel trappers are very quick to take advantage of this, they then approach the owners of the water to ask permission if they can net the water for the eels. Believe me they also offer a very good price to do so. In most cases the owners say yes. Believe me I know. So could I hear more views on the protection of our eel stocks and for asking N.A.S.A. to start a code of conduct for the eels, which in my book has been long overdue.

(Ed. See Letter from Kevin Richmond re. E.S.G/B.E.A.C.)

### EEL PRESERVATION 2 by JOHN SIDLEY

Over the years I have heard many good eel anglers state that all deep hooked eels should be killed to save them further suffering. I say 'NO!', for all deep hooked eels may not be hooked at all.

To me, an eel should only be killed if showing signs of distress. If the eel blows blood from its gills or mouth, or clots of blood show at the gill covers, or if the eel's body changes colour in places, then these are sure signs that the eel will die if returned. It is best to kill it by cutting off its head in a clean cut with a sharp knife.

In my time eeling, I have taken many eels home and put them into my bath, both large and small eels. Some of these eels have been deep hooked with a size 2 Mustad No. 29641. After only a few days, I have found the hook and trace lying in the bath. The eel recovered to full fitness in just a few days. The eels were placed in a white bath and if they turn a very light grey colour then there is a good chance of survival. The eel is trying to blend into the background. This also explains the different colour of eels found when fishing pits. I have taken two tone eels, half bronze and half light green, possibly from lying on a sandy or gravel bottom with weed. Eels that are jet black possibly from a muddy bottom and all bronze eels from gravel or sandy bottoms. This has been demonstrated when I captured two types of eels from one lake. When fishing over a very muddy bottom my eels were black, yet on the same pit near weed beds the eels were greeny and therefore there is much food for thought.

To try to prove my point on the eels not being deep hooked I have had some very good pike. These put up a real hard battle before being netted. When taken up the bank for unhooking, I have found to my horror that the tail of my bait was sticking out of its mouth. My first thought was it was deep hooked in the fat. Yet, when I have opened its mouth and pulled at the bait's tail, it came out with the hooks intact. The pike was not hooked in the first place even though it put up a very good fight all the way to the net. Explain it I cannot, but I do know the same thing happens with what we think are deep hooked eels. Again I have seen this proven. An angler I know took an eel of just over 2:8 on a full bleak deadbait. His hook was set in the root of the bleak's tail. When he landed the eel he asked me to help unhook it. I tried my best to ease the hook up but without any luck. It

was way down in its gut. The eel to my mind was showing no signs of distress and I told the angler to cut the trace as close down the throat as possible and to return it. He said 'No!' it would only die.' It was his eel so he killed it by cutting its head off. I asked there and then if I could open the eel up to see where the hook was and what damage it had done to the eel's gut. What we found made the angler very sick. His hook along with the bleak deadbait were in the eel's gut. The hook was still in the root of the deadbaits tail. It had not even hooked the eel. If it had been returned, it would have done what so many eels have done in my bath. Even though I had tried my utmost to pull that hook up I could not move it. This gave the impression that the hook had set deep, but it had not. Most important of all, the eel had shown no signs of distress. Therefore it should have been given the benefit of the doubt and returned alive. This is a point I feel should be passed on to members of N.A.S.A. and in articles written for the angling press by fellow eel anglers who write for them. If more anglers knew the above I'm sure they would not kill all their deep hooked eels. I have proven this point to many anglers who in the past killed all their eels if the hook could not be removed. With the forming of the E.S.G., together with the B.E.A.C. and the N.A.C., I'm sure we could get more published on the eel and bring into the open that there are anglers who do care about the welfare of the eel. We can if we all join together, put the eel on the map and stop it being the most abused fish on the list.

#### WINTER EEL ANGLING by KEVIN STEPHENSON

I believe this was a topic of discussion at the A.G.M.. Let me firstly say that I have never set out in the depths of winter to try to catch an eel. All winter eel captures have been accidents during pike fishing sessions. Over the last few seasons, I have spent a lot of time fishing on some of the smaller fenland drains. In this time, I must admit that I have never landed a large quantity of eels but enough to draw a few conclusions from.

For the sake of argument, I will call winter from October 1st to the end of the season. Looking back through my diary, there are several things that stare me in the face. The first is that almost without exception all my runs or fish came after mid day, in fact, at any time in the afternoon through until dark. The second fact to come to light is that the weather does not seem to play a large part in the eels feeding habits. I have taken eels in all weather conditions, from a mild October afternoon to a very cold January blizzard. Most of the fish I caught have been between one to two and a half pounds, unfortunately nothing bigger, although I have spoken to a pike angler who caught an eel a shade over four pounds a year last March. The only thought I can give to the out of season feeding habit of the eel may be that of change in atmospheric pressure.

Most of the fish taken have been caught on small deadbaits fished on a wire trace and trebles. The eels were in a feeding mood giving confident runs, even with the heavier bite indicators and tackle.

The following notes from my diary will I hope illustrate my point:-

Sunday 30th January 1983 - Weather very cold, strong North Westerly winds with scattered snow showers.

5 pike to just over 10 lbs., one missed run on a 2oz roach deadbait at 10.45am, another run on a roach deadbait of about the same size at dusk produced an eel of 2:2 in the middle of a snow storm.

Saturday 12th March 1983 - 4 jacks to 6lb all on livebait. 1 eel of 1:6 to a deadbait. The weather was warm with a light breeze, cloudy, no sun. Eel caught at 2.30pm.

January 28th 1984 - Drain up but not flowing. Weather dull with light drizzle in the morning, outbreaks of sun in the afternoon. 7 pike to 17:3. One run at 1.30pm producing an eel of 2:5 on a float ledgered roach deadbait. The eel was a very bright silver and in very good condition.

October 6th 1984 - South Forty Foot Drain, Lincs. Weather dull and cool, wind variable in both strength and direction. No runs at all on a paternostered roach livebait. At 3.45pm, I missed a run. 20 mins later I landed an eel of 1:13 to the same method.

Just after this, I landed a pike of 6lb on another roach livebait. At 4.50pm I landed another eel of 1:8, again on a livebait. Another run at 5.05pm again to the same method gave me a very solid resistance - another eel. This time the eel had buried into the weed to eat the meal. After a couple of minutes I wound in a mass of weed and eel slime. At least I didn't leave any hooks or tackle in the eel.

To finish this article, I would like to say that winter eel fishing can be a worthwhile pursuit on some days. It is an area the N.A.C. can expand on.

Looking back at this article, you may be wondering what I am getting all excited about. The size of the eels may be small, but the average is around 6oz for normal Fenland eels - ask any match angler. "Food for thought". Has it sorted the wheat from the chaff?

(Editor's note - I have in my records, details of at least three eels over 7lb captured during the winter of the past few seasons by anglers pike fishing.....)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## 1. From Arthur J. Sutton

Many thanks Brian for your efforts since taking this Office. If the recent Bulletin can be seen as a barometer of how things are going, then we may be looking forward to an increase in interest within the Club. Let us hope that this is so, for we had nothing but the wall at our backs. I believe that the lack of interest led to our losing Golly and Darf and possibly Dave Holman.

As for the articles in the Bulletin, they were excellent. Full marks to both Neville Evans and Dave Walker for not only having taken the trouble to write, but also for choosing subjects which were certain to promote interest.

I did enjoy 'Turn Again Arthur' by Dave Walker. This was the kind of response I wished for. It's true Dave, I am getting too old - and that's why I want the occasional nudge from younger members. You are possibly correct in most of what you say, especially in your comments on that particular stretch of the River Lea. I do look forward to your joining me on a session or two at that venue - and maybe we will discover that I am not ~~700~~ old after all. Anyway, thank you Editor and writers for your efforts. I dare say that I am not alone in breathing a great sigh of relief that the Bulletin and the Club lives on.

## 2. From Dave Holman

Dear members,

It is with some regret that I now forward my resignation from the National Anguilla Club. After 10 enjoyable years as a member of the Club, I'm afraid that I have finally reached a point where my eeling enthusiasm has dipped to an all time low.

No longer is the winter filled with endless tackle making, letter writing, planning and storing away provisions for the summer trips to come. Now its a chuck it and chance it affair which simply does no justice at all to our great quarry.

I well remember joining the Club in 1974 and the wave of friendship and help that came my way. Invites to restricted waters, specialist tackle thoughts and ideas arrived in every post by most of all the guys that made up the Club.

When A.J.S. arrived at Whittemere on opening night 1974, I had never met him before and yet he opened up his box and handed me a superb set of his bite alarms free of charge. 'Ernie told me your alarm set up was none too good.' he said.

I still have those buzzers and hundreds of sessions later I have yet to come across a more reliable set up.

Not just Arthur and Ernie, but many members both past and present can only be regarded as life long friends whom I am sincerely grateful to, have known and shared encounters with.

Who knows the enthusiasm that had me out every weekend (and

so many evenings (inbetween) from March 'till October each year, may return. I'd give anything to recapture that pure magic of it all once again . . . but it's gone.

A rather mixed up letter, but may I thank you all, members, for your help and friendship over the years. I have enjoyed greatly being a member, but the time has come to say farewell. I have been a member in number only for the last two years.

The true magic of eeling, the line gently pulling off the spool just moments before you strike. 'Is it 6oz or 6lb?'

There's something special about eels and I've said it before but big eels don't come easy, however - may one come your way this season.

Regards and best wishes.

Dave Holman

### 3. From Neville Evans

Correction to article in last Bulletin -

#### Sub Surface Rigs

....., with the eel usually attacking from below, the hook needs to be in this position, as shown. To avoid burying the hook into the bait on a long cast ..... etc.

Please add the correction to the article.

(Ed. Sorry Nev.)

### 4. From Stuart Greene

I think it would be a good idea to compile a list of waters that have produced big eels. This list should include as much data as possible on each water. (Ed. we did something like this about 12 years ago so perhaps it's about time we did have another go to come up to date.)

Also did anyone mention a visit to Ireland at the A.G.M.? I would be more than willing to do the 'donkey work' at this end and I feel confident that returns would justify the trouble of coming over. Any member would be more than welcome.

Do drop me a line - all the very best for '85.

Stuart Greene, Dublin.

### 5. From Ernie Orme

Information concerning some good eels captured my way.

Statham Pool near Lymm (Lynn Angling Club) 5:2 and 6:2.  
Lymm Vale, near Middlewich, 4:8 and 5:8, also very large tench, orfe, chub, barbel and grayling.

6. From Kevin Richmond, Eel Study Group, March 1985

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB

Whilst the Eel Study Group appreciates the suggestion being made that the B.E.A.C., E.S.G. and N.A.C. work together, it is the opinion that such a proposition is unworkable.

The E.S.G. and the B.E.A.C. have agreed to work together in close cooperation with each other, and the members of the E.S.G. are agreed that, whilst they hold no malice against the N.A.C., they feel that until the N.A.C. sheds a large percentage of its 'dead wood membership', it is in no position to offer sufficient information to enable E.S.G. members to benefit from what they feel would, at present, be a very one-sided exchange of ideas.

Should the National Anguilla Club show a rapid progression in its attitude to cleaning out its 'dead wood', then the Eel Study Group would be prepared to review the situation on its merit, and if in agreement with the B.E.A.C., would re-submit the above proposal to its membership.

Signed, Kevin Richmond.

From Kevin Richmond, Eel Study Group, March 1985

Editor's comment, OF THE NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB

Having known Kevin for over 10 years and having experienced his traumatic exodus from the N.A.C. followed by the disastrous failure of his 'Elite Eel Angling Group', the irresponsible way he let down Paul Hamilton in Ireland, the way he was publicised as the 'Scientific Advisor' to the anti-angling group 'The League For The Prevention of Cruelty By Angling', etc., etc., I was still prepared to give him the benefit of the doubt and support.

The above letter follows a letter to Kevin from John Sidley, asking if the three clubs could work together to present a unified front as mentioned in his article. John is a member of the E.S.G. and was not consulted as indicated above.

Kevin's letter indicates he is still suffering from a massive dose of egotistical self-importance. I am very interested in receiving the B.E.A.C.'s view on this issue.

Brian Crawford

From Kevin Richmond,

Eel Study Group, March 1985

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB

Having known Kevin for over 10 years and having experienced his traumatic exodus from the N.A.C. followed by the disastrous failure of his 'Elite Eel Angling Group', the irresponsible way he let down Paul Hamilton in Ireland, the way he was publicised as the 'Scientific Advisor' to the anti-angling group 'The League For The Prevention of Cruelty By Angling', etc., etc., I was still prepared to give him the benefit of the doubt and support.

TEST YOUR INTELLIGENCE

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R D T S A R S N A G S I S C T  
A L O O T O I C A R B O N M N  
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SPRATS  
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STICKLEAD  
DEADBAIT  
SACK  
LINE

BALA  
TACKLE  
KNIFE  
WORMS  
TRICAST  
WIRE  
NEEDLE

LAKE  
CARBON  
BROLLYTENT  
FORCEPTS  
RUCKSACK  
SPECIMEN  
TORCH

PETER STICKLAND